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Dawn M. Berry

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Name of Person signing Certificate

Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Christopher A. MICHALUK

Application No.: 10/042,549

Filed: January 9, 2002

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Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before expiration of the three-month period following the filing of the above-identified application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or

Information Disclosure Statement

Application No.: 10/042,549

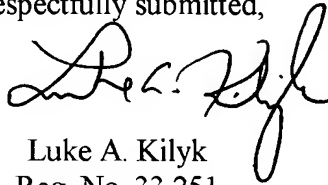
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constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 03-0060 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No. CPM00029CIP(3600-328-01)

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Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/14 Documents